

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-101. (Cancelled)

102. (New) A server for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.

103. (New) A server according to claim 102 in which the data units represent a base layer and at least one enhancement layer.

104. (New) A server according to claim 102 comprising re-ordering means to change the order of the data units.

105. (New) A server according to claim 102 in which the data signal is scalable.

106. (New) A server according to claim 105 in which the signal is scalable in a domain selected from the group consisting of the temporal, the spatial, the spectral and the SNR domains.

107. (New) A server according to claim 102 which comprises an editor for providing the data signal.

108. (New) A server according to claim 102 in which the data signal represents a sequence of pictures to produce a moving image.
109. (New) A server according to claim 108 in which the data signal represents a video sequence.
110. (New) A server according to claim 102 in which the data signal comprises multimedia data.
111. (New) A data transmission system for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.
112. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the data units each comprise a base layer and at least one enhancement layer and when re-ordered the base layer of a particular data unit has a greater safety time than of the or each enhancement layer of the particular data unit.
113. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the source is a server.

114. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the source is an editor.
115. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the sink is a client.
116. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the sink is a mobile terminal.
117. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which the sink is a mobile telephone.
118. (New) A transmission system according to claim 111 in which means are provided to check the progress of transmission and to change the order being used to one better suited to available bandwidth.
119. (New) A method of transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink comprising the step of sending the data units in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.
120. (New) A method according to claim 119 in which the data units are returned to their original sequence once they have been transmitted over the transmission link.

121. (New) A method according to claim 119 in which the progress of transmission is checked and the order being used is changed to one better suited to available bandwidth.
122. (New) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing transmission of a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.
123. (New) A computer program product according to claim 122 comprising a server.
124. (New) A computer program product according to claim 122 comprising an editor for providing a scalable data signal.
125. (New) A computer program product according to claim 123 comprising re-ordering means for providing the layers of the or each data units with different safety times.
126. (New) A data signal having a sequence of data units for transmission over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink the data units being in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.

127. (New) A method of controlling transmission of a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring the transmission of the data units in order to determine the condition of the transmission link;

providing a control signal to the data source to change the order of the data units in response to the condition of the transmission link not being adequate;

changing the order in which the data units are transmitted to one better suited to the condition of the transmission link, the order being determined by the relative importance of the data units rather than their predetermined order;

transmitting the data units from the data source to the data sink; and

receiving the data units at the data sink and returning the order of the data units which are received by the data sink back into the predetermined order.

128. (New) A method of transmitting a data signal over a transmission link from a server to a client for playback at the client, the transmission link having a variable channel throughout, the data signal comprising a sequence of data units including primary data units and secondary data units, each of the primary and secondary data units being ordered in the data signal according to an original data unit order, the method of comprising applying a re-ordering algorithm to change the order of primary and secondary data units in the sequence of data units so that an initial buffering time required at the client for full quality playback of the data signal with full channel throughout and an initial buffering time required at the client for reduced quality playback of the data signal with a predetermined reduced channel throughput are approximately equal.